

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06656 051318Z

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ACTION HEW-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 AID-05 L-03 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4989

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: US EGJC TBIO

SUBJECT: JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION: COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT

REF: STATE 158602

1. EMBASSY FINDS DRAFT REPORT VERY POSITIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE AND BELIEVES EGYPTIAN SIDE SHOULD VIEW IT AS SATISFACTORY STATEMENT FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. WE HAVE ONLY FOLLOWING BRIEF COMMENTS ON DRAFT, WHICH WE BELIEVE COULD LEAD TO ELIMINATION OF ANY POSSIBLE AMBIGUITY OR POTENTIAL LACK OF COORDINATION:

A. HEALTH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND MEDICAL EDUCATION: - PARA 2: SUGGEST THAT WORD QUOTE FACILITIES UNQUOTE BE REPLACED BY QUOTE CAPABILITIES UNQUOTE TO AVOID SUGGESTION THAT USG INTENDS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES.

B. SERA, VACCINES AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS - PARA 3: ASSUME THAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE FINANCED FROM SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND ALLOCATIONS.

C. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN PENULTIMATE PARA OF DRAFT REPORT PROVIDED REFTEL WHICH CALLS FOR DESIGNATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SINGLE MEMBERS FROM EACH SIDE TO FOLLOW UP, EVALUATE AND FURTHER

DEVELOP BILATERAL COOPERATION. WHILE, IN PRINCIPLE, CONCEPT IS GOOD ONE, WE FEAR THAT, IN PRACTICE, IT MAY LEAD TO GAPS IN COORDINATING AMONG VARIOUS US AGENCIES CONCERNED. THIS PARTICULARLY COULD BE CASE WHERE AID FUNDING IS INVOLVED. WE RECALL THAT, AT INITIAL JWG (MC) MEETING IN CAIRO, IT WAS STRESSED THAT EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE CHANNEL FOR FORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN US AND EGYPTIAN SIDES, RECOGNIZING, OF COURSE, THAT THIS WOULD NOT IMPLY RESTRICTION ON INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. DESIRABLE THEREFORE THAT EMBASSY'S COORDINATION ROLE BE SPECIFICALLY STATED IN PARA TO INSURE THAT PROGRAM FITS INTO OVERALL US POLICY RE EGYPT.

D. FOR OUR INFORMATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION HOW MEETINGS ENVISAGED LAST PARA WILL FIT INTO ANNUAL OR SIME-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION. WILL THIS TWO MAN TEAM BE A SUBGROUP OF JWG OR, IF NOT, WHAT WILL ITS RELATIONSHIP BE?

2. AMBASSADOR AGAIN WISHES STRESS IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUND PROGRAM OF MEDICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND US. DRAFT REPORT IS GREAT STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.
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